

News Release

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 3, 2008

CHECK BEFORE YOU GO! Cleveland National Forest Use Restriction Level: HIGH

San Diego, CA –December 3, 2008...The recent rainfall in the region has helped lower the fire danger level on the Forest, reducing the Forest Use Restriction level from **Very High** to **High**. Forest use restrictions implemented during **Very High** will be lifted immediately.

While the rainfall has reduced the chances of wildfire starts, fire season has not ended across the Forest. “Last week’s rain wetted the Forest well, but without additional moisture, a forecasted Santa Ana event could quickly move us back into a higher level of Forest Use Restrictions,” said Carlton Joseph, Fire Chief for the Cleveland National Forest. While the current low level marine layer that brings fog to the area helps raise relative humidity, rain is not currently forecasted through the end of the week.

Under **High** Fire Use Restrictions, campgrounds are open to visitors and campfires are again allowed in developed campgrounds and developed picnic areas in designated fire rings. “We appreciate the public’s cooperation,” adds Joseph, “As fire danger levels are subject to change with fire activity on the forest, visitors need to still use care and caution when visiting the Forest,”

In addition to checking the Fire Danger Level, forest visitors should check the “current conditions” page on the Cleveland National Forest web site to see if there are any other closures. Under “current condition,” road and campground closures as well as any other information is listed. **Visitors are encouraged to check before they go.** For a recorded message please call **619-593-2183** or for online information go to www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland.

The Forest would like to remind visitors that there are some activities that are **NEVER** allowed on the Cleveland National Forest. The use of Fireworks and the discharging of firearms with steel core, armor piercing or tracer ammunition is strictly prohibited. Open fires are **NEVER** allowed outside of developed campgrounds and developed picnic areas in designated fire rings. Please check with the other southern California National Forests to determine what current fire restrictions are in place.

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Check before you go for updated information.

- District offices are open Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- For the Cleveland National Forest Supervisor's Office dial (858) 673-6180.
- For Alpine, Descanso, and Laguna Mountain Area contact the Descanso Ranger District at (619) 445-6235.
- For Palomar Mountain, Henshaw, Ramona and Oak Grove areas contact the Palomar Ranger District at (760) 788-0250.
- For the Ortega Hwy area, San Mateo and Corona area contact the Trabuco Ranger District at (951) 736-1811.

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